A SILENT VOICE

1

YOSHITOKI OIMA

IS SHE...
EVEN HERE?
GLANCE GLANCE
人材センター
OH!
NISHI-MIYA!

SHOKO NISHI-MIYA.
I HATED HER.

CHAPTER 1: SHOYA ISHIDA
NISHIMIYA-
NISHIMIYA-
...
...DO YOU THINK HE'S A FRIEND OF NISHIMIYA-CHAN'S?
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT BOY AROUND...
...
OH MY!
DON'T BE SILLY! HE'S OBVIOUSLY HER BOY-FRIEND!
ほほほ...
HOHOHO...

UM...
NO, I'M NOT HER BOYFRIEND! NISHIMIYA-SAN AND I ARE ONLY FORMER CLASSMATES, AND...
N-

I JUST NEED TO TALK TO HER FOR A--

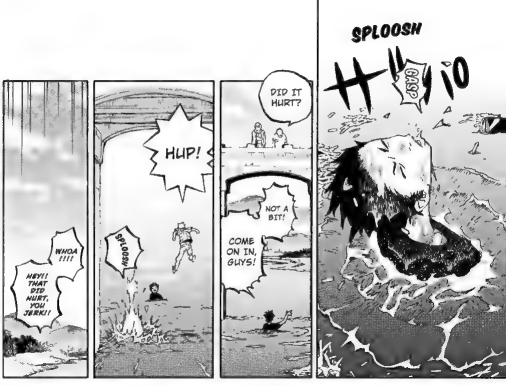
GRIN
G...
...!
...
...!
...

W-
WAIT A SEC-OND!
AH!
DASH
NISHI-MIYA!!
TAP
HUH?! DON'T YOU RE-MEMBER ME?!
TAP
TAP
PLEASE! DON'T RUN!!
...

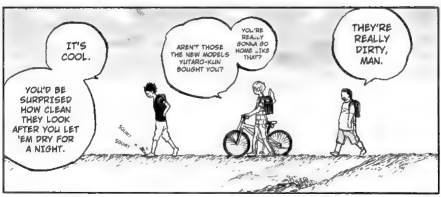
TAP TAP
TAP TAP
...
IT'S ME, ISHIDA! WE WERE IN 6TH GRADE TOGETHER!
TAP TAP
TAP TAP
...
COME ON, IT'S ME, ISHIDA!
!!!!
I SAID...
IT'S ME, SHOYA ISHIDA!!

**NO TRESPASSING

WOO-HOO!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT HURTS OR NOT UNLESS YOU TAKE THE PLUNGE!!
SPLASH
HE'S GONNA KILL HIMSELF ONE OF THESE DAYS...
OH, HE REALLY DID IT.


SPLOOSH
DID IT HURT?
NOT A BIT!
COME ON IN, GUYS!
HUP!
SPLASH
WHOA !!!!
HEY!! THAT DID HURT, YOU JERK!!

SQUIRTLE
OH CRAP... I FORGOT TO TAKE OFF MY SHOES...


IT'S COOL.
YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW CLEAN THEY LOOK AFTER YOU LET 'EM DRY FOR A NIGHT.
AREN'T THOSE THE NEW MODELS YUTARO-KUN BOUGHT YOU?
YOU'RE REALLY GONNA GO HOME ...LIKE THAT?!
THEY'RE REALLY DIRTY, MAN.
Yutaro
Shinji

HAIR MAKE ISHIDA
WELCOME HOME.
SNIP
WE GOT ANY SNACKS?
SPLAT
HEY, MA'AM.
HI, MA'AM.
SNIP
THERE'S SOME IN THE FRIDGE.

EEK!!
?

HOW DID YOU GET SO DIRTY?! USE THE BACK DOOR, BOYS!!
THAT BOY OF YOURS IS ALWAYS GETTING INTO SOME-THING!
はは
HA! HA! HA!

TOSS
...THE 41ST DAILY DARE-DEVIL TOUR-NAMENT?

YOU TWO DON'T HAVE TO HANG AROUND THIS IDIOT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, YOU KNOW?
YOU BOYS HAVE GOT TO STOP PLAYING SUCH DANGEROUS GAMES!
OH NO, WE HANG OUT WITH SHOYA-KUN BECAUSE IT'S FUN.
TODAY, WE JUMPED INTO THE RIVER FROM THE BRIDGE.
WE DO IT EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL.
LOSER BUYS SNACKS AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
AHHH! YOUR SHOES ARE ALL MUDDY!
SHO-CHAN!
HEH
SHEESH! DON'T YOU KNOW I'M THE ONE WHO ALWAYS HAS TO CLEAN THEM FOR YOU?!
AWWW, YOU'RE SO CUTE WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY!
DROP DEAD!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT, YOU OLD HAG!

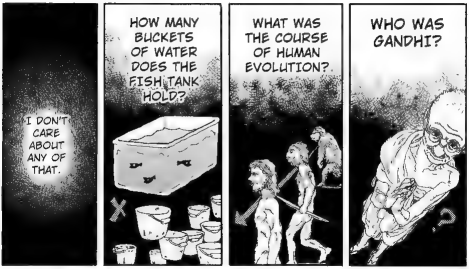
WHERE'S THE NEXT BOOK, SHOYA?
IN MY SISTER'S ROOM.
KLIK KLIK
...
KLIK KLIK
ZZZZZ
HEY.
HOW'S IT GOIN?
OH!
SHK
ZZZ

APPARENTLY, THIS GUY'S NAME IS GENKI-KUN.
HOW MANY IS THAT?
THIRTY.
HOLY CRAP...
THERE WAS A GUY I DON'T KNOW IN THERE.
WHAT, FOR REAL? WHAT ABOUT YUITARO-KUN? DID THEY BREAK UP ALREADY?!

SIS SAYS LIFE IS A WAR AGAINST BOREDOM.
DOES YOUR SISTER REALLY HAVE THAT MUCH TIME ON HER HANDS?

DING
DONG
DANG
DONG

I HATE BOREDOM TOO.


I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT.
HOW MANY BUCKETS OF WATER DOES THE FISH TANK HOLD?
WHAT WAS THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVOLUTION?
WHO WAS GANDHI?

WHAT I WANT TO KNOW MOST IS HOW TO AVOID BOREDOM.

AND EVERY DAY, I WIN SMALL VICTORIES IN MY WAR AGAINST IT.

WOO-HOO!
SPLOOSH
YOU SURE? THAT MEANS YOU'RE BUYIN' SNACKS, YOU KNOW?
CALLIN' IT QUITS, SHIMADA-KUN?
HUH?
SPLASH
EW, GROSS !!!!
WHAT'S THE HOLDUP, SHIMA?!

OH... UH...
...FROM NOW ON, I'M OUT.
HUH?!!!
WHY?!!!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU I STARTED CRAM SCHOOL?
CRAM SCHOOL?!!!
WHAT ARE YOU, SOME KIND OF NERD?!!
JEEZ, SHUT UP...
SEE YA.
WE'LL BE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEXT YEAR.
LET'S STOP ALL THIS KID STUFF.

HEY... IT'S A NUTRIA !!!!
LOOK! OVER THERE!
THEY'RE CRAZY RARE!!
WHOA!!
FOR REAL ?!!!
LET'S CATCH IT AND KEEP IT AS A PET!!
LET'S ADOPT IT!!

...
HUFF
HUFF

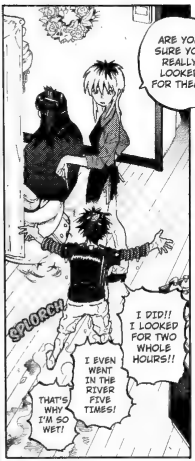
SCREW CRAM SCHOOL!
OHHH ?!!!

HMM?

YAY!
LET'S NAME IT!!
YAY!
ALL RIGHT!

WHERE'D MY SHOES GO?!!!

YOU CAN BE KIND OF ABSENTMINDED, SHOYA-KUN.
SOMEBODY PROBABLY STOLE THEM WHILE YOU WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION.


ARE YOU SURE YOU REALLY LOOKED FOR THEM?
SPLORCH!
I DID!! I LOOKED FOR TWO WHOLE HOURS!!
I EVEN WENT IN THE RIVER FIVE TIMES!
THAT'S WHY I'M SO WET!

SHUT UP! WHADDA YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING AT MY PLACE ANYWAY, UBNO?!
WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THAT FANCY SALON BY THE STATION?!
SHO-CHAN !!!!

THANKS FOR ALWAYS COMING BY.
SHOO! SHOO!
BOINK
YOU'RE WELCOME, MA'AM!

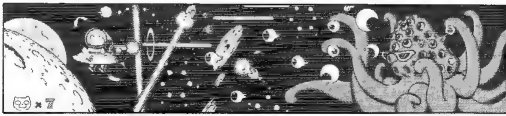
WOO?!
HEY, I'M HELPING PAY YOUR BILLS, SO BE GRATE-FUL!!
HMPH!

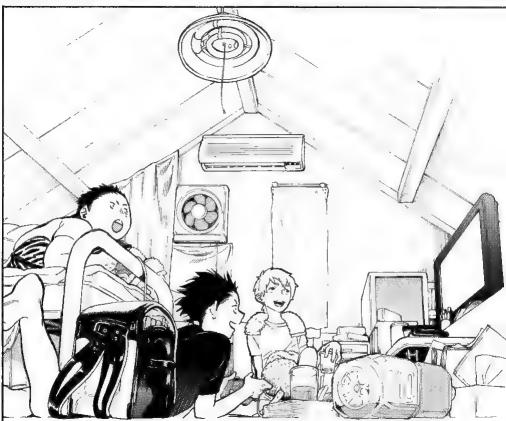
!
OH, WE HAVE A CUS-TOMER?

YEESH! THIS IS, LIKE, THE WORST DAY EVER!
WHERE'S THIS WEEK'S ISSUE?!

ARE MARTIANS COMING TO OUR SALON NOW?

BOW
W-
WEL-COME.





AREN'T THESE YOUR SHOES, SHOYA?
THE NEON ONES?
YEAH, THAT'S THEM!! WHAT THE HECK?!
WHO'S THIS GUY?!
THAT'S WHEN HE STARTED KIND OF TROTTING AWAY
IT LOOKED TO ME LIKE HE WAS MAKING A RUN FOR IT.
"WHERE'D YOU STEAL THOSE?"
I THOUGHT IT WAS SUSPICIOUS, SO I ASKED HIM:
"TALK ABOUT" DIRECT
HE STARTED WEARING THOSE AT THE SAME TIME YOURS WENT MISSING.
A GUY FROM 2ND ELEMENTARY I GO TO CRAM SCHOOL WITH.

I SEE...
THANK YOU FOR THAT REPORT, SHIMADA.

WE'LL LAUNCH OUR ASSAULT ON 2ND ELEMENTARY AS SOON AS WE CONFIRM OUR TARGET!!
SHALL WE BEGIN "OPERATION HIGH-TOP DOWN" IMMEDIATELY, SIR?

BUT, COMMANDER, OUR TARGET STANDS AN IMPOSING 5'11" IN STATURE!!
SKRITCH SKRITCH
IT'S DANGEROUS TO APPROACH ENEMY TERRITORY.
LET'S USE A DECOY TO LURE HIM INTO AN UNPOPULATED AREA!
WHAM
NO NEED! LET'S DEFEAT HIM RIGHT AWAY!!

*"APE"

BUT IF I WERE TO GIVE HIM A NAME, IT WOULD BE THIS:
"DELUXE."
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S THIS GUY'S NAME?
DO CREATURES LIKE THAT REALLY EXIST ON EARTH?!
TH... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
DE...
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN.
HAHA
DE-LUXE?!!!

BAM
OUTTA MY WAY!

第二小学校
2ND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHAT'S HIS PROB-LEM?
...

GULP
GULP
IS THAT HIM?

UM... EXCUSE ME.

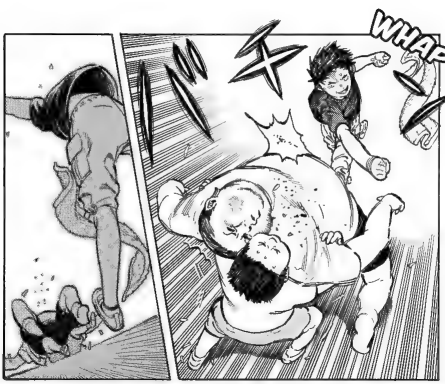
A TEACHER ASKED ME TO CARRY SOME THINGS...
BUT THEY'RE REALLY HEAVY.
WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME A HAND?
YAY! THANK YOU! THEY'RE RIGHT OVER HERE!
WHERE ARE THEY?
HERE THEY COME!
!
HOW'M I SUPPOSED TO KNOW UNTIL I GIVE IT A SHOT?
THIS IS WHAT BEING A DAREDEVIL IS ALL ABOUT!!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BEAT THIS GUY?
WHAT'S TAKIN' UENO SO LONG?

...
YO.
YOU KNOW WHY I CALLED YOU HERE, DON'T YOU?
WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THOSE SHOES YOU'RE WEARING.
...
WHAT ABOUT...
...MY SHOES?
DON'T PLAY DUMB. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STEAL PEOPLE'S STUFF, DON'T YOU?
HEH!
FWIP
?!

I'LL GIVE 'EM BACK?
WHAT IF I SAID...

SH...
OH!

SHUT UP!!


WHAP

FINAL-
LY...
I HAVE...

HUFF
HUFF
I DID
IT...

ZING ZING

OHHHHH!

RIGHT-ED THIS WRONG !!!!

HEY.

SHOYA-KUN?

HEY, GENKI-KUN!

LONG TIME NO SEE!

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE ***SOLAR PLEXUS*** IS?

HUH?

FLAP
IT'S RIGHT HERE!
THOKK

AHH!!
ZOOM
ZOOM
AHHH!!
WHADDA YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN', BEATIN' UP MY LITTLE BROTHER?

MY BROTHER'S A LOT MORE DELICATE THAN YOU THINK.
HE'S REALLY HURT!
IS GENKI-KUN'S LITTLE BROTHER?
SO THAT GUY...
IS FRIGGIN' HILARIOUS...
THAT...
IT'S CLEARLY CAUSING NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
JEEZ, WHY DON'T YOU STOP THIS SILLY DAREDEVIL NONSENSE?

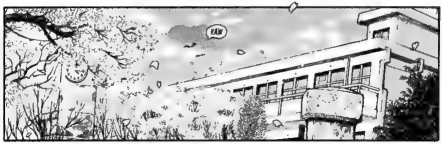
DON'T BE SILLY!
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, MOM! BEIN' HIT BY SOMEBODY OLDER THAN YOU IS AN HONOR!
RIGHT, GUYS?!
YEAH.
...
A DAY LIKE THIS IS WHAT I CALL A RESOUNDING VICTORY AGAINST BOREDOM!
BWAHA-
HAHA-
HA-
HAHA!

WHERE'S THE NEXT BOOK, SHOYA?
KLAK-KLAK
...
KLIK-KLAK
zzzzz
HELLO.
MY NAME IS PEDRO.
OH!
SUK
zzzz
zzzz

*SIGN: "GRADE 6, CLASS 2"

I'M GLAD WE'RE SITTING CLOSE!
YOU'RE BESIDE ME, UGGGH THAT SUCKS!
SHUT UP, BALDY!
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
YOU DREW NUMBER 16, DIDN'T YOU, SAHARA-SAN?
WOULD YOU MIND SWAPPING WITH ME?
THUNK
YAWN
I KNOW, RIGHT?
A GIRL.
OHHH!!
EEEK!
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE'S THE TRANSFER STUDENT GONNA SIT?!
SENSEI! IS IT A BOY OR A GIRL?!
WE CAN DECIDE THAT ON THE DAY OF THE TRANSFER.

HUH?!
I DON'T GIVE A CRAP!!
ISN'T THAT GREAT, ISHIDA?!


YAH

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO PLAY TODAY, SHIMA?

WHY DON'T YOU START CRAM SCHOOL TOO? YOU COULD SEE DELUXE!
GET GOIN' ALREADY!

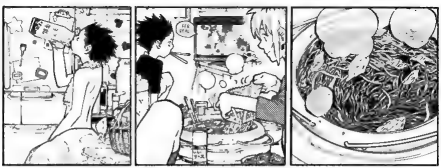
SORRY.
I'M GOING TO CRAM SCHOOL.

I SKIPPED TOO MUCH ALREADY. MY FOLKS WOULD KILL ME.
C'MON! YOU CAN SKIP IT!

I HEARD IF YOU JUMP INTO WATER FROM FIFTY FEET, IT'S AS HARD AS CONCRETE!
THEN WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME FUN JUST THE TWO OF US, HIROSE?
WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?
BUT I THINK WE SHOULD FIND A MORE SAFE AND PRODUCTIVE WAY TO SPEND OUR TIME.
I'VE BEEN THINKING OF TELLING YOU THIS FOR A WHILE...
OF THIS DAREDEVIL STUFF?
I MEAN, DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH...

GAME OVER

TIME FOR DINNER, SHO-CHAN!



OH CRAP... AT THIS RATE, I'M GONNA LOSE TO BORE-DOM...
SCRUB SCRUB
"LET'S STOP ALL THIS KID STUFF."

I'M GONNA LOSE!

キーンコーン
カーンコーン
DING-DONG
DING-DONG

YAWN
KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK
KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK

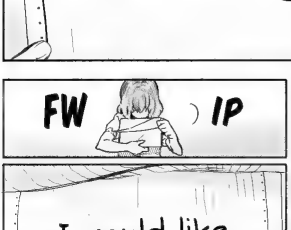
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A NEW FRIEND IN CLASS STARTING TODAY.
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE.
KLIK

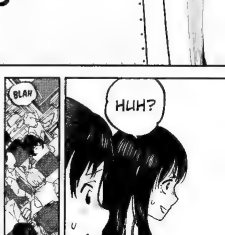
ALL RIGHT!
SHE'S HERE!
CHATTER
CHATTER

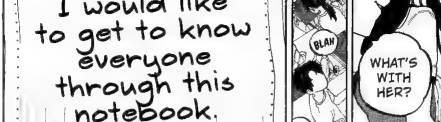
日

ALL RIGHT.
INTRODUCE YOURSELF.
OH.
INTRODUCE YOURSELF.
PAT
DOOR SLIDE

My name is Shoko Nishimiya. It's nice to meet you.







I can't hear.
hear
i can't hea

I can't hear

WHAT A WEIRDO!!
HMM?
?
LET'S SEE... WHERE SHOULD YOU SIT... WHY DON'T YOU MOVE YOUR DESK BACK A BIT, ISHIDA?

ALL RIGHT. TAKE A SEAT.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
BOW.
NICE TO MEET YA!
BOW.
...
NICE TO MEET YOU!
BOW
BOW

N-

...
ALL RIGHT. NOW I'M GOING TO START CLASS.

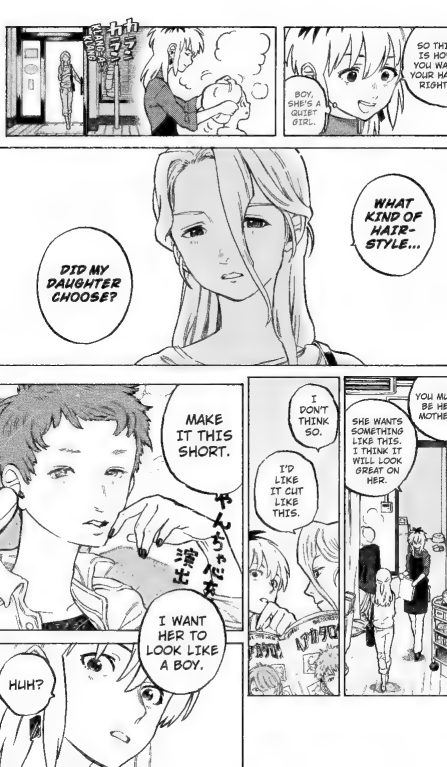
SIDE STORY: 7 MONTHS EARLIER...
SORRY ABOUT THE WAIT. NOW, IF YOU'LL COME ON BACK...

...?
...IF YOU'LL COME ON BACK?

...?!
IF YOU'LL COME ON BACK...

ヘアカタログ

...!
?
EXCUSE ME...
THIS WAY!
HER HAIR'S WET!
PLUS...
!
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR HAIR STYLED?
IS JUMPING INTO RIVERS THE HOT NEW TREND OR SOMETHING?
LEAVES?
TAP


SO THIS IS HOW YOU WANT YOUR HAIR, RIGHT?
BOY, SHE'S A QUIET GIRL.
WHAT KIND OF HAIR-STYLE...
DID MY DAUGHTER CHOOSE?
YOU MUST BE HER MOTHER.
SHE WANTS SOMETHING LIKE THIS. I THINK IT WILL LOOK GREAT ON HER.
I DON'T THINK SO.
I'D LIKE IT CUT LIKE THIS.
MAKE IT THIS SHORT.
I WANT HER TO LOOK LIKE A BOY.
HUH?

IT'S NO USE.
ARE YOU OKAY WITH ME CUTTING IT THIS SHORT?
UM... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SHE CAN'T HEAR YOU.

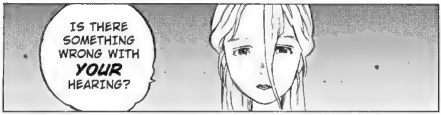
...!!

SHE'S BEING BULLIED AT SCHOOL.
THROWN?
WELL, I'M TRANSFERING HER TO A SCHOOL MORE UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE WITH DISABILITIES SOON.

ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE'S NOT WEARING HER HEARING AID LIKE TODAY.
IT WAS THROWN INTO THE RIVER AND WASN'T FOUND.
THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE SHOKO LOOKED FOR IT.

LISTEN...
I WANT MY DAUGHTER TO GROW STRONGER.
LIKE A BOY.
?
...
NOW, CUT IT OFF.
Your mother wants me to cut your hair like this. What do you think?
...
...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, MA'AM?


IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH *YOUR* HEARING?

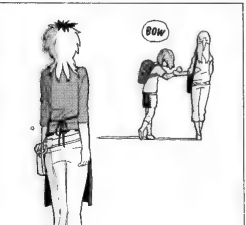
BUT SHE HAS TO LIVE WITH IT...
WELL, *I'M* THE ONE PAYING YOU.

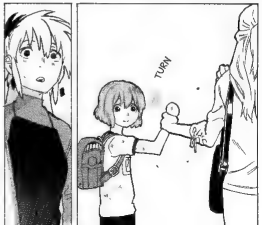
SHE WANTED IT LIKE THIS...
I'M SORRY, BUT...

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS KEEPING MY DAUGHTER FROM BEING BULLIED!!
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR OPINION!! OR SHOKO'S!!

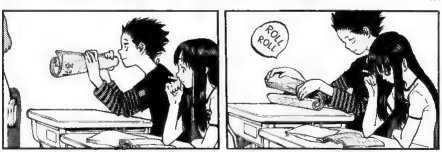
I'M VERY SORRY, MA'AM!

...
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU STAY IN BUSINESS WHEN YOU DON'T LISTEN TO YOUR CUSTOMERS!
I WON'T BE COMING HERE AGAIN!


BOW


TURN

*SHIRT: "NISHIMIYA"



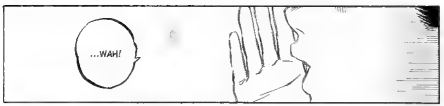
CHAPTER 2: JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS

WAH!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, ISHIDA? WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS.
...
?
!
IT'S THIS QUESTION.
NISHIMIYA, DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?
...
SKREEK
THAT'S CORRECT. HOORAY.
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
Dugout shelters.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S VERY NICE.
I JUST WANTED TO KNOW HOW BAD HER HEARING IS!
BOP
WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?!

HOW?
YOU KNOW?
I THINK I CAN FIGURE IT OUT...


...WAH!

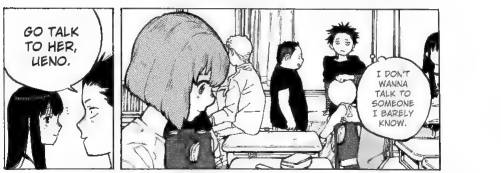
WAH!
HAVING FUN, ARE WE?
LEVEL THREE CLEAR.
LEVEL TWO CLEAR...

ARE YOU STILL DOING THAT?
WAH!
BLAH
BLAH
LEMME TRY.
WOOF! WOOF!
BLAH
BLAH
HUH ?!!!
YOU DO IT TOO, MAN!
WAH...
BLAH
BLAH
LEMME SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!
YOU CHICK-EN!!
WAH !!!!
ISHI-DA!!

I REALIZE YOU'VE NEVER MET A DEAF PERSON BEFORE, BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE FUN OF NISHIMIYA BECAUSE OF HER DISABILITY.
YOU HEAR ME?

I JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF SHE REALLY CAN'T HEAR.
THEN GO ABOUT IT A DIFFERENT WAY.
ASK NISHIMIYA HERSELF.

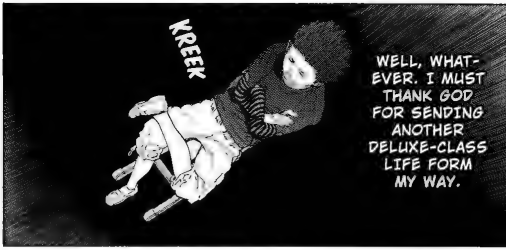
HUH?
BUT THAT'S SO BORING!
PLUS...


GO TALK TO HER, UENO.
I DON'T WANNA TALK TO SOMEONE I BARELY KNOW.

TEP
HEY, CAN YOU SPEAK JAPANESE, NISHIMIYA-SAN?
HAHA... THAT'S NOT A NICE WAY TO PUT IT.
Could you please repeat that?
AHA...
OH...
Do you have a nickname?

HER NICKNAME IS "SHO-CHAN"!
HUH.

DAMN IT! HOW EMBARRASSING!
SHO-CHAN!
GEH!
THAT'S WHAT YOUR MOM CALLS YOU!


KREEK
WELL, WHATEVER. I MUST THANK GOD FOR SENDING ANOTHER DELUXE-CLASS LIFE FORM MY WAY.

GULP
I'LL HAVE TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER!

BUT I STILL DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION IN ORDER TO USE HER PROPERLY...

H-HEY, UH...
COURAGE, DON'T FAIL ME NOW!
WHY'D YOU COME TO THIS SCHOOL ANYWAY?
Did you say something?
WUH... NEVER-FREAKIN' MIND!
...
IT APPEARS THAT SHOKO NISHIMIYA, FROM PLANET NISHI-MIYA, DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HUMAN LANGUAGE VERY WELL!!

LOUDER, UENO!
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO GET THE FEELINGS ACROSS LIKE THAT?!
KREEK
STUDENT NUMBER 15.
DAMN FOUR-EYES
JEEZ... NEXT LINE:
YES, SIR...
ANH DOH I GAN'T WAIT...
NOO SEE GRAMBA AGAIN.

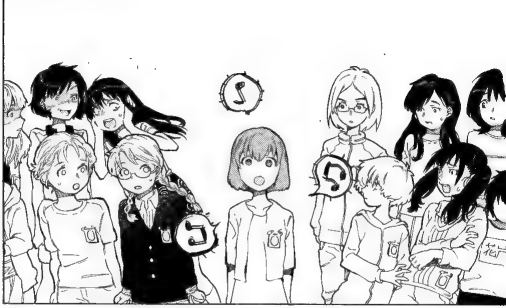
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
THUNK
GOOD. NEXT.
THAT'S YOU, ISHIDA.
ARGLE! BARGLE!
UWAH! UWOH!
I DID IT!!
I SPOKE NISHIMIYANESE!!
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
HEH...
HAHA...
PFFT

I KNOW THE WAY NISHIMIYA SPEAKS IS UNUSUAL, BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO MOCK HER.
YOU HEAR ME?
I DON'T THINK IT'S UNUSUAL. SHE'S JUST SPEAKING HER MOTHER TONGUE.
SHUT UP AND LISTEN TO WHAT I TELL YOU.
I'M TALKING ABOUT MORALS.
WHAT-RALS?
YOU'RE IN SIXTH GRADE AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT MORALS ARE?
I GUESS THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU ACT LIKE THIS.
WHAT KIND OF PARENT RAISES AN IDIOT LIKE YOU?
ANY-WAY...
THERE ARE SOME THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT YOU JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH!
THINGS YOU...
HAVE TO DEAL WITH...

Do you understand what Sensei just said?
It would be a big help if you could tell me.
HUH?
LEND ME YOUR NOTE-BOOK.
THINGS YOU JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH, HUH?
...
AND...
PAGE 32, CHAPTER 2: PRACTICE SECTION.
PAGES 20 TO 25.
WRITE DOWN WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY, KIDS.
What is everyone writing down now?

...SO THIS TIME I DIDN'T HEAR WHAT HE SAID.
I'LL LET YOU COPY MINE LATER.
THINGS YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH.
WHAT? AGAIN?
HE CALLED ON YOU.
SHOW SHOW
THEN... NISHI-MIYA.
I WISH SHE'D GET A CLUE!
I DON'T SEE WHY SHE HAS TO RAISE HER HAND ANY-WAY.
THINGS YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH...
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
DOESN'T SHE KNOW HOW MUCH TIME SHE'S WASTING?
CAN YOU TELL NISHI-MIYA NOT TO RAISE HER HAND UNTIL AFTER SHE'S WRITTEN HER ANSWER?
...SORRY, UENO.

AT THIS RATE, EVERYONE'S GONNA GET FED UP WITH YOU.
YOU KNOW...
Would you mind writing it down?
WH-WHAT A PAIN IN THE BUTT!
...
MUSIC ROOM
YES, MA'AM.
NOW, LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST TO PREPARE FOR THE CHOIR COMPETITION!
...



HI, I'M KITA-SENSEI FROM "THE HEARING CLASSROOM"!
SHOKO-CHAN IS A LITTLE TONE DEAF BECAUSE OF HER DISABILITY.

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

SHE'LL DO HER BEST, JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, SO WON'T YOU PLEASE LET HER PARTICIPATE IN THE CHOIR WITH YOU?
EVERYONE WHO THINKS THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, CLAP YOUR HANDS!!

WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THE CHOIR COMPETI-TION?
LOSE?

...

WHAP
GIMME THAT!

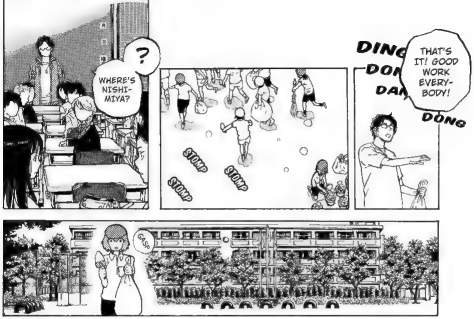
...

...

You're tone deaf, so just pretend like you're singing!

OH, DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO HIM!

CHOIR IS FRIGGIN' STUPID ANYWAY!


?
WHERE'S NISHI-MIYA?
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
DING
DON
DANG
DONG
THAT'S IT! GOOD WORK EVERY-BODY!

THIS IS PROBABLY ANOTHER OF THOSE THINGS WE JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH.
SHE WAS IN YOUR GROUP. WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HER, UENO?
I DIDN'T NOTICE...
NO EX-CUSES!
LISTEN, YOU'RE ALL AT FAULT HERE!

BUT IS THAT REALLY TRUE?

THE TIME IT TAKES TO TELL HER THINGS.
...
...erschool, he... us to think... meaning for our cho... song and place it... desk tomorrow.

PUTTING UP WITH HER BAD SINGING.
THE DELAYS IN CLASS.
possible, could you please face this direction when you speak?

SO I HAVE A PROPOSAL FOR EVERY-ONE.
THAT'S JUST WHAT IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU CAN'T HEAR.
IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS YOU JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH.

LET'S USE THE THREE-MINUTE AFTER-NOON HOME-ROOM PERIOD TO HELP SHOKO-CHAN AND...
LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE!
SIGN LAN-GUAGE ?
KITA-SENSEI! WHAT'S "SIGN LANGUAGE"?
SENSEI!
THEN, WHY DON'T WE START TODAY?
TALK WITH YOUR HANDS?
THAT SOUNDS FUN.
SHOKO-CHAN WILL BE OUR TEACHER FOR THESE LESSONS!
AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, IT IS A WAY TO COMMUNICATE USING "SIGNS" WHICH YOU MAKE WITH YOUR HANDS.
SO YOU MIGHT ALSO SAY IT IS A WAY TO TALK WITH YOUR HANDS.
手話

HOW WILL LEARNING SIGN LANGUAGE...
HELP NISHI-MIYA-SAN?
CAN'T WE JUST WRITE IN HER NOTE-BOOK?
?
JUST LIKE SPEAKING ENGLISH TO AN ENGLISH PERSON HELPS THEM, SPEAK-ING SIGN LANGUAGE TO A DEAF PERSON HELPS THEM.
...THAT'S JUST OB-VIOUS...
DID YOU KNOW THAT...
IT'S EASIER FOR NISHI-MIYA-SAN TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH SIGN LANGUAGE, AND SHE CAN GET HER FEELINGS ACROSS MUCH BETTER THAT WAY AS WELL?
WELL, IT'S EASIER FOR ME TO COM-MUNICATE THROUGH WRITING.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T JUST THINK LEARNING SIGN LANGUAGE WILL BE A BOTHER, UENO-SAN?
GRR!
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE QUIBBLING TO ME...
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HOW WE CAN ALL HELP NISHIMIYA-SAN...
UM...
JUST A MOMENT, KITA-SENSEI.
HUH?
TAKEUCHI-SENSEI AND I WILL EVEN STUDY WITH YOU!
D-D-D... DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW?
...WHICH IS WHY I THOUGHT WE COULD START LEARNING IT TODAY...
...NO, I DON'T.
...
YOU DON'T KNOW SIGN LANGUAGE?

YOU'RE NOT EMBARRASSED MAKING THE STUDENTS LEARN SOMETHING BEFORE YOU LEARN IT YOURSELF?
...
...
WHY DON'T WE TRY THIS AGAIN SOME OTHER TIME, KITA-SENSEI?
I CAN SEE WHY UENO IS COMPLAINING.
NO ONE WILL GO ALONG WITH THIS.
IS THAT...A PROBLEM?

I'LL LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE.
UM...
OOO!
WHOA, SHE'S GOT GUTS!
INSTEAD OF THREE MINUTES A DAY, I'LL STUDY AN HOUR AND A HALF A DAY SO NO ONE ELSE HAS TO.
I'M SAHARA.
AND YOU ARE...?
IF HELPING NISHIMIYA-SAN IS THE GOAL, THEN I THINK ONE PERSON WILL BE PLENTY...
DURING CLASS AND BETWEEN CLASSES...
AND I'LL STAY WITH NISHIMIYA-SAN ALL DAY LONG...

OH, I'VE JUST...
ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN THIS SORT OF THING...
BUT... WHY...
SAHA... SAHARA-SA...

HOW ABOUT A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR SAHARA-SAN'S COURAGE?!
EVERY-ONE!
TAKE-UCHI-SENSEI.
GRADE 6, CLASS 2 IS A WONDER-FUL CLASS, ISN'T IT?

...
*SFX: CLAPPING

キーンコーンカーン
DING DONG DANG DONG

NICE JOB SCORING THOSE BROWNIE POINTS.

WHAT'S SHE TRYING TO SHOW OFF FOR?
EVERYONE KNOWS SHE'S STUPID.
AND AREN'T HER CLOTHES UGLY?
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
What's wrong?
?
THUNK
I, UM...
I'M SORRY!
OH!
I'M SORRY.

SHE IS AN INTRUDER SENT TO BRING HARM TO OUR CLASS.
SHE ISN'T SIMPLY AN ALIEN RAISED IN A DIFFERENT CULTURE.

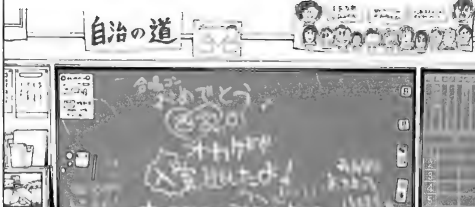
BECAUSE OF HER, THE CHOIR COMPETITION WAS A TOTAL BUST...

OUR NORMAL ROUTINE WAS DESTROYED...

AND SAHARA STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL.

I THINK I'VE FIGURED OUT...
SHOKO NISHIMIYA'S TRUE IDENTITY...

BUT IS NISHI-MIYA AWARE OF THIS FACT?
NO MATTER WHAT THE METHOD...
I MUST INFORM HER OF THE TRUTH!..
MAN, THIS IS REALLY STUPID, SHOYA.
LOOKS LIKE FUN!
WHEN YOU GET IN TROUBLE, I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
LET ME HELP!


"CONGRATULATIONS, NISHIMIYA-SAN! BECAUSE OF YOU WE LOST THE CHOIR COMPETITION!"
"DON'T SING, MISS TONE-DEAF!!"
"ARGLE! BARGLE!"
"LIDDEN DOO NIS!"
"APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE!!"
"WHY ARE YOU BARFING?"

WHOA! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BLACKBOARD?
IT'S AWFUL, ISN'T IT? I MEAN, REALLY...
BOY, THAT IS MEAN.
RIGHT, SHIMA?
LET'S ERASE IT FOR HER.
自治の道
みんなで 立ち向かう
THERE. ALL GONE.
FWIP

Thank you, everyone.

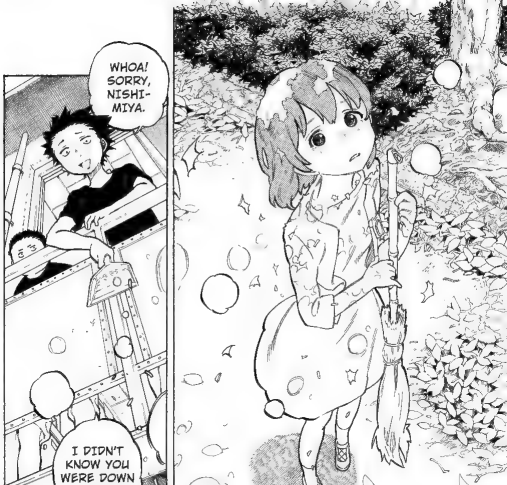
OR GETTING PISSED OFF...
LET'S TAKE THIS OUTSIDE.

OR CRYING...

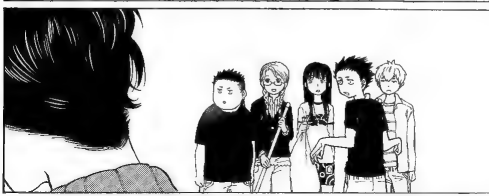
IS THAT ALL SHE'S GOT?
RARGH!
WHO THE HELL DID THIS?!
SURELY THIS WOULD BE A MORE APPROPRIATE REACTION, RIGHT?

WHAT'S WITH THIS CHICK?

NOW SHE'S GOT MY ATTEN-TION!
IF I KEEP THIS UP...
I WANNA KNOW...
SHHHH
WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO HER...


WHOA! SORRY, NISHI-MIYA.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE DOWN THERE.
SENSEI, ISHIDA-KUN...
WHAT HAPPEN-ED?
SHIMA JABBED ME IN THE EYES EARLIER!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
I MEAN IT, KAWAI-SAN! MY EYES ARE REALLY BAD TODAY!
STOP ACTING STUPID, BOYS!

DIDN'T I, NISHIMIYA?!
SHIT SHIT
I ALREADY DID!
APOLOGIZE.
...
I'LL ASK HER WHEN I GET A CHANCE.
OH!
I KNOW!
APOLOGIZE TO HER LATER.
...
SEE?
SENSEI! WHY CAN'T NISHIMIYA-SAN HEAR ANYWAY?
IT'S REALLY INCONVENIENT, HUH?
NAH!



THIS IS IT!

*A LEGENDARY MINSTREL WHO WAS FORCED TO PLAY FOR EVIL SPIRITS. HIS FRIEND, A PRIEST, PAINTED HOICHI'S BODY WITH SUTRAS TO WARD OFF THE SPIRITS, BUT FORGOT TO PAINT HIS EARS. WHEN THE SPIRITS CAME FOR THE NIGHTLY PERFORMANCE, HIS EARS WERE THE ONLY PART OF HIS BODY THEY COULD SEE, SO THEY RIPPED THEM OFF.

AND DOODLE ON CATS.
I ADJUST THE PATHS OF ANTS...
IF THERE'S A PIGEON, I CHASE IT.
WHEN I SEE A SLUG, I POUR SALT ON IT.
AND DOODLE ON HER STUFF.
Sorry. Did you by something?
ADJUST HER PATH...
CHASE HER...
SO I'LL POUR WATER ON HER...

THIS IS THE PROPER WAY...
TO USE A NISHIMIYA!!

HEY.
LEMME SEE THIS FOR A MINUTE.
6年2組
**GRADE 6, CLASS 2*
?!
THIS IS IT, RIGHT?
...
LET ME SEE THAT FOR A SECOND.
HERE YOU GO.
THAT'S A HEARING AID?
THEN SHE CAN HEAR AFTER ALL!
I KNOW, RIGHT?
THEN SHE DOESN'T NEED SPECIAL TREATMENT!

HAHA!
WHOA! THAT WAS MEAN, DUDE!
HEH HEH!
HAHAHA!
...
TOSS
EW! THERE'S SOME-THING ON IT!
SICK, DUDE!
HMM?
!
YANK
OH HEY, SHE'S GOT ANOTHER ONE!
SWAP
WHOA!
THIS IS PRETTY BAD, HUH?
GEH! YOU TOOK IT TOO FAR, SHOYA!
SEE? I TOLD YOU TO KNOCK IT OFF!

-SIGH-
YIKES, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NISHIMIYA-SAN?
...
...
LET'S GO TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
ALL I'M TELLING YOU IS DON'T EMBAR-RASS ME.
I DON'T CARE WHY YOU DID IT.
WHATEVER HAPPENS, IT'S YOUR RESPONSI-BILITY.
SIGH
SIGH
I'M TELL-ING YOU!
I DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE!
I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT SHE HAD IN HER BAG!
**FACULTY OFFICE*
...
CLICK
CLICK

BUT...I DO UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL.

THAT WHAT HAPPENED IS "JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS"...
HUH... SO EVEN TAKEUCHI-SENSEI GETS IT.

HUH?
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE.
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL. LET'S GO HOME.
HUH? BUT I WANTED TO SEE YOU SAY YOU'RE SORRY.
I FIGURED IT OUT. I DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE!

WHADDA YOU WANT?
GET OUTTA OUR WAY.
WHOA! SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!
SKREE! SKREE!
WHAT'S SHE WRITING?
"PLEASE APOLOGIZE" OR SOMETHING?
WAS SHE... WAITING FOR ME?

I'm sorry.
YEAH, RIGHT. LIKE I'D APOLOGIZE TO THE LIKES OF--

...?!
...
WHAP
FLUTTER
I DON'T GET IT. WHAT'S WITH THIS CHICK?
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THIS, RIGHT? GO AHEAD! SAY SOME-THING!
UH!

...
...
I DON'T THINK SHE GETS IT, SHOYA.
GRIN
GRIN
NO?
OH.

WHA-
?!!!

WH-
WH-

HA!
HA!
WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?!!!
WHUMP
HAHA! WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?!
THAT WAS TOTALLY HILARIOUS, NISHIMIYA-SAN!!
HA!
CHAPTER 3: HAHAHAHAHA

C'MON! DON'T BE BASHFUL!
NO, I'M NOT!!
HA
OHHH?!!! ARE YOU BLUSHING, SHOYA?!
...
HA
!
HA
HA
HA

...
HA...
SHE'S CREEPIN' ME OUT.
LET'S JUST GO.
...
GLUB
OH, YOU NAILED IT, MAN.
WANNA COME TO MY PLACE TODAY?
SPLOOP

SPLASH
HMM?

WHOA! ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!!!

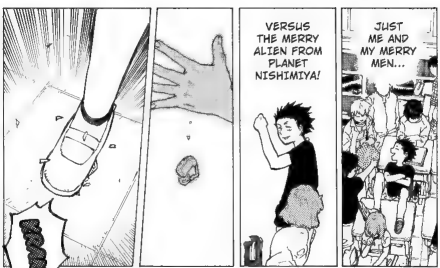
HA
HA
HA
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
DUDE, THAT IS NASTY!

ROLL
ROLL

WAH!

HAHAHA
PFFT

WHAT
FUN!!


VERSUS THE MERRY ALIEN FROM PLANET NISHIMIYA!
JUST ME AND MY MERRY MEN...

IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL "SATISFACTION"?!

THERE IS SOMETHING WE'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU DURING TODAY'S INTEGRATED STUDY PERIOD.
FIRST, A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRINCIPAL.

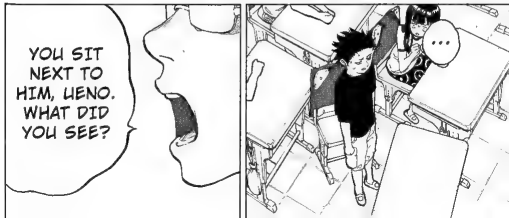
IT'S ABOUT NISHIMIYA-SAN, WHO YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED IS ABSENT TODAY.
THE TRUTH IS, YESTERDAY WE RECEIVED A CALL FROM NISHIMIYA-SAN'S MOTHER.
...

IT SEEMS THAT IN JUST FIVE SHORT MONTHS, EIGHT OF NISHIMIYA-SAN'S HEARING AIDS HAVE GONE MISSING OR BEEN DAMAGED.
NISHIMIYA-SAN'S MOTHER BELIEVES SHE MAY BE BEING BULLIED AT SCHOOL.
IF ANY OF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS, PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND.
APPARENTLY, THE DAMAGES AMOUNT TO NEARLY ¥1,700,000*.
*CURRENTLY, AROUND $16,000

OF COURSE, WE ARE WELL AWARE THAT YOU ARE ONLY CHILDREN...
AND THAT YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO REPLACE THE LOST HEARING AIDS.
IF YOU COME FORWARD NOW, THE SCHOOL CAN HANDLE THIS MATTER INTERNALLY.
SO BEFORE YOU CAUSE TROUBLE FOR YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER, I ADVISE YOU TO CONFESS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE CULPRIT IS NOT FOUND, I AM AFRAID WE WILL BE FORCED TO TURN THIS MATTER OVER TO THE POLICE.

STAND UP, ISHIDA !!!!
WE ALL KNOW IT WAS YOU, YOU LITTLE TWERP!!
THUNK


YOU SIT NEXT TO HIM, UENO. WHAT DID YOU SEE?
...

WELL, I GUESS SHOYA DID KIND OF...
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NISHI-MIYA-SAN'S DEAFNESS...
TO TEASE HER BEHIND HER BACK.
HUH?
DO YOU HAVE ANY ROOM TO TALK?
BUT I GUESS I COULD HAVE DONE MORE TO STOP HIM AS WELL...
ACTUALLY...
FWIP
I THINK UENO-SAN DID A BETTER JOB KEEPING ISHIDA-KUN IN LINE THAN ANYONE!
IN FACT, I DON'T THINK ANY OF THE GIRLS IN CLASS APPROVED OF ISHIDA-KUN'S ACTIONS.
I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE BOYS, THOUGH.
OH, REALLY? THEN WHAT DO YOU THINK, SHIMADA?
YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH ISHIDA, RIGHT?

WELL, I ALSO...
...SORT OF TOLD HIM TO KNOCK IT OFF...
NOT THAT SHOYA LISTENED...
HEY, WHY ARE YOU MAKING IT SOUND LIKE IT WAS ONLY ME?!
YOU ALL THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY!! EVEN YOU, SENSEI!!
ISHIDA!! WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU NOW!!
AND IF YOU WANNA BRING GOSSIP INTO IT, THE GIRLS DID THAT MORE THAN ANYONE!
ESPECIALLY KAWAI AND UENO!!
HUH ?!!!

WHY CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?
WHY WOULD YOU EVEN SUGGEST THAT?
DRIP
I'M THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVE. I WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING!
HOW MEAN, ISHIDA-KUN...

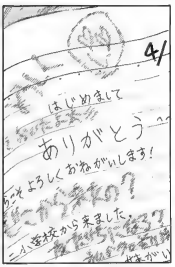
SAY YOU'RE SORRY, ISHIDA.
YOU CREEP!

ROUGH DAY TODAY, SHOYA.
I KNOW A LOT HAPPENED, BUT LET'S STAY FRIENDS STARTING TOMORROW.

SEE YA.

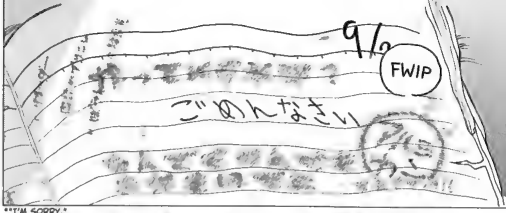
...

**6-2 SHOKO NISHIMIYA*



**...ANK YOU." / "THANK YOU SO MUCH." "THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS HELPING ME."*

**NICE TO MEET YOU." / "THANK YOU." "NICE TO MEET YOU AS WELL!" / "I CAME FROM 2ND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL." / "...ONE LITTLE SISTER..."*


FWIP
ごめんなさい
"I'M SORRY."

FWIP
ごめんなさい
"I'M SORRY."
FWIP
ごめんなさい
"I'M SORRY."
FWIP
ごめんなさい
"I'M SORRY."

HEY, ISHIDA!
WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO GO IN THERE?

DON'T LIE TO ME. TELL THE TRUTH.
...
SHIMADA PUSHED ME IN.

THUNK
SQUELCH
OH, HE JUST GOT HOME!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, SHOYA!
YOUR TEACHER TOLD ME EVERY-THING THAT HAPPENED.
...!
WHY ARE YOU ALL WET AGAIN?!
I JUMP-ED IN THE RIVER LIKE ALWAYS!
SHUT UP!

YOU ARE SO PATHETIC...

VROOOM

YEP YEP YEP
SKREEK
...
BOW BOW
IT LOOKS LIKE SHOKO-CHAN DIDN'T COME.
I'M GOING TO TALK WITH HER MOTHER FOR A BIT AT A CAFE, SO YOU WAIT AROUND HERE.
BUT YOU'D BETTER APOLOGIZE BEFORE WE GO HOME. YOU GOT THAT?
HUFF HUFF
YEP YEP YEP

YAWN
I WONDER IF MY LIFE'S GONNA CHANGE STARTING TOMORROW...

SHHHHH
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GONNA START BEING NICE TO HER!
I MEAN, SENSEI'S AGAINST ME NOW, BUT WHAT IF THE OTHERS STILL TALK TO ME LIKE NORMAL...
HARD TO SAY...
OH WELL, WHATEVER.
I GUESS THERE'LL BE NO MORE TEASING NISHIMIYA THOUGH.
SHHH
WELL, IF SHE WANTS, I MIGHT EVEN SAY I'M SORRY.

EEK!
SHE'S FRIGGIN' HERE?!
COO
COO
COO

GRR!
S B C
MIYU × KEITA
THIS IS SOME KIND OF FRIGGIN' DATE SPOT?!
HMM?

...
!!

DIE!
JUST DIE!
BAM
BAM

BOOM
BOOM

WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT?!!

STAY AWAY FROM ME!
DAMN IT! WHAT'S TAKING MOM SO LONG?!
BONG
BONG
COME NEAR ME AND I'LL PUNCH YA!!
GO SIT BACK DOWN, STUPID-MIYA!!
...
FWIP
LET'S GO, SHO-CHAN.
!

I'M...
OH...
WHAT A VULGAR FACE...
JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER'S.
...
LET'S GO, SHO-CHAN.

YOU BE A GOOD BOY STARTING TOMORROW.
OKAY?
MORN-ING!
GOOD MORN-ING!
*SFX: *DING-DONG DANG-DONG*
BO
NK
YOU IDIOT!
DON'T STEAL MY MATERIAL!
AHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
OH!
MY EYES ARE REAL BAD TODAY, SO I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE!
SORRY, SHO-CHAN!

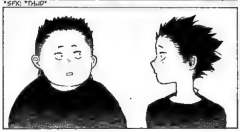
HEY, AFTER SCHOOL TODAY, WHY DON'T WE GO JUMPING AGAIN? IT'S BEEN TOO LONG, MAN!
OHHH! SOUNDS GOOD!
WHAT BRIDGE ARE WE GONNA JUMP FROM?

WAIT, THERE'S NO WATER.
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN JUMP FROM THIS HIGH.

DON'T YOU RUN!
YOU DON'T KNOW UNLESS YOU TAKE THE PLUNGE!!
!
YANK

HUH?
UNGH!

*SFX: "THUD"



HUH?

BRING IT ON!
OKAY, THEN LET'S WRESTLE INSTEAD!
YEAH!
?!
A SUPLEX, HE SAYS, HIROSE.
ALL RIGHT! I'M GONNA SHOW YOU HOW TO DO A SUPLEX!
BMPH!
OH?! TWO ON ONE, EH?!
PERFECT!! THAT REALLY FIRES ME UP!!

HHHS

...

HAIR MAKE ISHIDA

WEL-
COME
HOME.

OH! ARE SHIMA-KUN AND HIROSE-KUN HERE TOO?
IT WAS REALLY FUN, SHIMA HE--
S... SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
JUST LOOK AT HOW DIRTY YOUR CLOTHES ARE!
YOU MUST'VE GONE OFF PLAYING SOMEWHERE AGAIN.

IT'S ALL RIGHT! I DON'T NEED ANY ANY-WAY! AND YOUR SISTER IS AT A FRIEND'S TODAY.
OH, NO. THAT'S NOT--
I BOUGHT SOME CAKE! THREE PIECES! YOU BOYS EAT THEM!
NO, THEY--
OH... N...

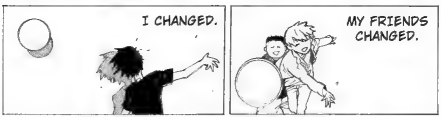
THEN, I GUESS WE'LL TAKE 'EM.
OH, REALLY?
...
THANKS FOR THE GRUB!
I'M SORRY THEY'RE SO LOUD...
THIS CAKE LOOKS GOOD!
LET'S PLAY VIDEO GAMES, SHOYA!
HAHA-HAHA!
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. BOYS WILL BE BOYS, YOU KNOW.
THIS CAKE IS GOOD!
HAHAHA-HAHA!
HAHA-HAHA...

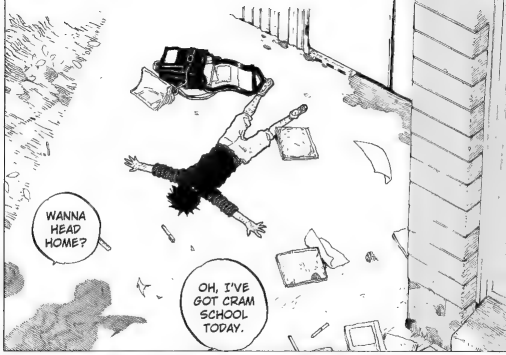
HA HA HA!
HA!

YUM! YUM!
THIS IS GOOD CAKE!

ALL I WANTED...

WAS TO FIGHT
OFF BOREDOM.




WANNA HEAD HOME?
OH, I'VE GOT CRAM SCHOOL TODAY.

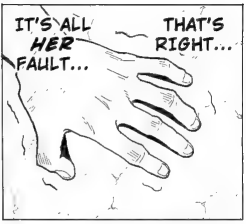
IS HE PLAYING DEAD?
LET'S JUST GO.

OH...
WHOA!

HEY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT "KARMA" IS?
THAT MUST BE IT.
HEH HEH!

HUH? ISHIDA-KUN?
...

I HATE HER!


IT'S ALL HER FAULT...
THAT'S RIGHT...

SHOKO NISHIMIYA...

I HATE HER...

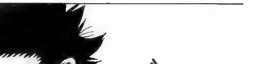
GASP

CHAPTER 4: NISHIMIYA, YOU PIECE OF SHIT

GO AWAY!
SHOO! SHOO!

RUSTLE RUSTLE

I'M NOT LIKE YOU!
PHEW

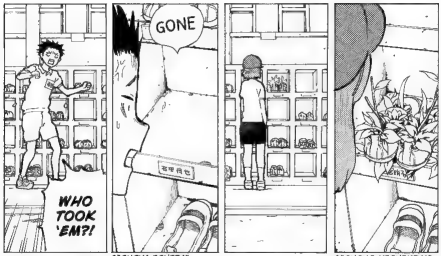

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE FOUND A PARTNER?
THEN, BEGIN THE SIT-UPS.

...
TWO
THREE

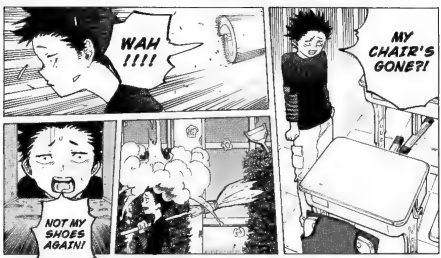
ONE

DON'T YOU RUN OFF, ISHIDA!
EEK!
HEY, GET GOING, YOU TWO!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
IT REALLY HURTS!
I MEAN IT!!
MY STOMACH HURTS, SO I'M GONNA SIT THIS ONE OUT.
I'M GOING TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE!!
THAT'S THE ROAD, ISHIDA!!

I DON'T SMOKE!
WHOA! HE SNAPPED! HOW SCARY!
MAYBE SHOYA'S REBELLING?
SOMETHIN' SMELLS LIKE CIGARETTES.
...
世界の歴
"UGLY!"


WHO TOOK 'EM?!
GONE
**SHOYA ISHIDA*
**SHOKO NISHIMIYA*

THIS IS JUST WHAT I WANTED, RIGHT?
YEAH, I DEFINITELY WOULDN'T CALL THIS A BORING LIFE.
牛乳


WAH !!!!
MY CHAIR'S GONE?!
NOT MY SHOES AGAIN!

I LOST 'EM IN THE RIVER.
...
YEAH.
YOU LOST YOUR SHOES AGAIN?
I TOLD YOU I LOST 'EM IN THE RIVER!
ABOUT YOUR SHOES...
ABOUT WHAT?
DO YOU WANT ME TO TALK TO YOUR TEACHER?
CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE, ISHIDA?
YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, SENSEI!
EVERY TIME I GET A NEW PAIR, IT GOES MISSING! I'M ON MY EIGHTH PAIR NOW!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, SENSEI!
I HEAR YOU'VE LOST A LOT OF SHOES LATELY.

STOP LYING. TELL ME THE TRUTH.

IT'S GOTTA BE SHIMA AND HIROSE! THEY'RE ALWAYS MESSING WITH ME...
I-I'M NOT LYING, SENSEI!

*SHOES: "GUEST"

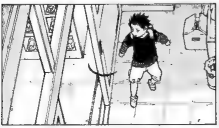
...!
THAT'S RIGHT. THOSE TWO JUST TOLD ME YOU SUSPECTED THEM OF DOING IT.

BUT...IT'S TRUE THAT MY SHOES KEEP DISAPPEARING!!

I SEE.
THEN LET'S PRETEND THAT THOSE TWO ARE STEALING YOUR SHOES.
LET'S PRETEND IT'S THE TRUTH.
YOU'RE STILL THE ONE WHO STARTED IT, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT RIGHT DOES THE BOY WHO BULLIED NISHIMIYA HAVE TO JUDGE HIS FRIENDS?
I DID WARN YOU, DIDN'T I?
OVER...
AND OVER AGAIN.
THAT THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

CHIRP
CHIRP



NEW PAIR IN PLACE.

I'LL SETTLE THIS ON MY OWN!
EBAC
*NAMEPLATE: *SHOYA ISHIDA*

HUH?
...OR MAYBE NOT?
SO SHE'S BEHIND THIS?!
NISHIMIYA'S IN CHARGE OF THE FLOWERS? SO THAT'S WHY SHE COMES IN SO EARLY...
THUNK
SHHH
SNIP
SCRUB
SCRUB

SHE'S STILL BEING BULLIED? SUCKS TO BE HER.

*"DIE!"

YOU GOTTA FIGHT LIKE ME.

NISHIMIYA... KEEPIN' QUIET'S NOT GONNA CHANGE ANYTHING.

...
PLOP

AHH...I HURT MY SHOULDER...
LET'S TELL ON SHOYA.
HAHA-HA!
OH.
HE FOUND US.
I KNEW IT WAS YOU, YOU JERKS!!
YOU PIECE OF SHIT...
HIROSE, YOU PIECE OF SHIT...
SHIMADA, YOU PIECE OF SHIT...

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE REALLY THINKING TOO, RIGHT, NISHIMIYA?
"ISHIDA, YOU PIECE OF SHIT..."
SERVES YOU RIGHT, ISHIDA!
DIE! DIE, ISHIDA! YOU BASTARD!
I MEAN, THAT CAN'T BE ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY, CAN IT?
I'm sorry.
I'm sorry.
I'm sorry.
I'm sorry.

WHAM
WHOA!

FRIGGIN' GOODY TWO-SHOES...
WHADDA YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
THERE'S THAT FACE AGAIN...
SMILE
IF YOU GOT SOME-THING TO SAY, THEN SAY IT!!
THOK

WHAM
YOU'RE SUCH A COWARD!
YOU STAY QUIET AND ACT WEAK TO GET THE TEACHERS ON YOUR SIDE!!
HAVE YOU EVER ONCE SAID HOW YOU REALLY FEEL DEEP DOWN IN YOUR GUT ?!!!

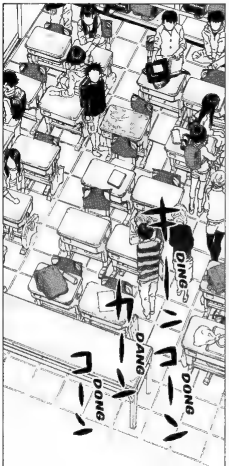
WHAP
O-
OH, IT IS ON NOW!
WHAM

I'B...
I'B DOIG NAH BESD I GAN!
GRAB
BMPH?!
HMPH-HNGH-NGH?!
(WHAT THE HELL IS SHE SAYING?!)
MPH!
(YBOUCH!)
CHOMP
THOK
THOK
WHAM
BAM
KRASH
CHOMP
!!

HRNNNNG!!
SENSEI

...QUIETLY VANISHED.
NISHIMIYA-SAN HAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL.
A MONTH LATER, SHE...
THAT I HAD BEEN THE STUPID-EST ONE OF ALL.
WHAT I LEARNED THE NEXT MORNING IS...
MORN-ING!
GOOD MORN-ING!

SO YOU FINALLY NOTICED?


DING
DONG
DANG
DONG

"YOU SHOULD JUMP OFF A BUILDING TODAY. I BET IT'D FEEL GOOD."
"WE DON'T WANT BULLIES!"
"DIE!"
"SIGNED, THE WHOLE CLASS"
"DIE, BALDO!"
"I REALIZE WE HATE YOU ALREADY!!"
"TRAITOR!"

...
IT WAS MY DESK.
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE

THE MESSAGES, WRITTEN IN CHALK, CONTINUED FAITHFULLY...
EVERY SINGLE MORNING...
NISHIMIYA WAS CLEANING MY DESK.
UNTIL THE DAY I GRADUATED...
*"HAPPY GRADUATION!"
EVERY MORNING...
NISHIMIYA HAD WIPED THEM OFF EVERY MORNING.

SHE REALLY...
PISSES ME OFF!

SHOKO NISHI-MIYA.
I HATED HER.

DURING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY, SHIMADA SAID:
YOU GUYS'D BETTER STAY AWAY FROM THAT SHOYA ISHIDA.
HE'S A BULLY.
CHAPTER 5: REJECT

...
YEAH, I DID.
STUDENTS WHO CAME FROM OTHER DISTRICTS ASKED ME:
THERE ARE A LOT OF RUMORS GOING AROUND ABOUT YOU. ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
DID YOU REALLY MAKE A GIRL TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SCHOOL?

SO I ENDED UP ALONE.

I...
ISHIDA-KUN...
DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
ARE YOU READY TO TURN IN YOUR BASIC EDUCATION NOTEBOOK YET?
OH, I FORGOT IT.
HURRY UP AND TURN IT IN, OKAY?
I MEAN, WE KNOW YOU'RE BUSY AND ALL, BUT... YOU KNOW?
"I WISH HE'D GET HIS ACT TOGETHER."
"HE PROBABLY DIDN'T DO IT ANYWAY, RIGHT?"
...
—SPRING, HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR YEAR—

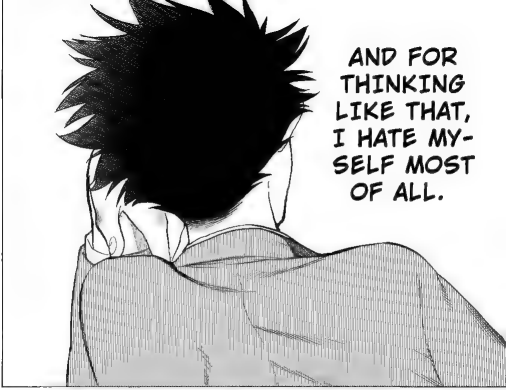
YAY! YAY!
"HE'S JUST IN THE WAY."
"YEAH, I KNOW."
"GET OUTTA HERE, IDIOT."
FORGET IT. I'LL DO IT.
GOT IT.
COULD YOU BRING ME THE LINE POWDER, ISHIDA-KUN?
"PITCH IN, YOU IDIOT."
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY HOBBIES, ISHIDA-KUN?
OH, HOW COOL.
"YOU THINK YOU'RE A BADASS OR SOMETHING?"
HEH, HEH.
WHY IS IT YOU'RE ALWAYS ALONE, ISHIDA-KUN?
"WHAT A CREEPY LONER."
"BUT YOU'RE PLENTY THIN!"
"RIGHT NOW, I'M ON A DIET."
"YEAH, MY GIRL-FRIEND DID THE SAME THING."
"YESTER-DAY, MY GIRL-FRIEND, SHE..."
"HE IS SO ANNOY-ING..."
"WHAT'S HIS DEAL?"
"HE GIVES ME THE CREEPS."
"WHOA."
"OH, HE'S KIND OF GLARING AT US, GUYS."

SHUT UP!!

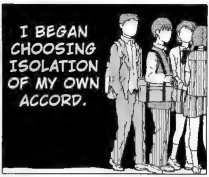
I'M THE ONE WHO HATES YOU!!
I'M NOT HERE TO MAKE NICE WITH YOU, IDIOTS!

YOU LOOK AWFUL WITH BROWN HAIR!
FIRST OFF, THERE'S YOU!

IT CREEPS ME OUT.
AND YOU PEOPLE STOP TALKING ABOUT ROMANCE WHEN IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU.
IT'S NOT FUNNY.
I HATE THOSE PERVERTS ON THE TRAIN.
THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO.
WHAT, AGAIN?!
AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU ACTING LIKE YOU'RE SO HOT.
THIS WEIRD OLD MAN TALKED TO ME TODAY.
HE WAS FLIRTING WITH YOU.
NO, THAT CAN'T BE IT.
ACTING LIKE YOU'RE SO UNHEALTHY.
KRUNCH KRUNCH
STOMP STOMP
ACTING LIKE YOU'RE SO BUSY.
*BOTTLE: "MEDICINE"
ODDBALL CHARACTERS.
I SEE ALL!
SUBCULTURE GEEKS.
I HATE ALL THE STUFF YOU LIKE.
I HATE ALL OF YOU.
PRETENDING YOU'RE A PERSON OF INTEGRITY.
I HATE THEM.
AND I HATE ALL YOUR FRIENDS TOO.
I HATE YOU.


AND FOR THINKING LIKE THAT, I HATE MYSELF MOST OF ALL.

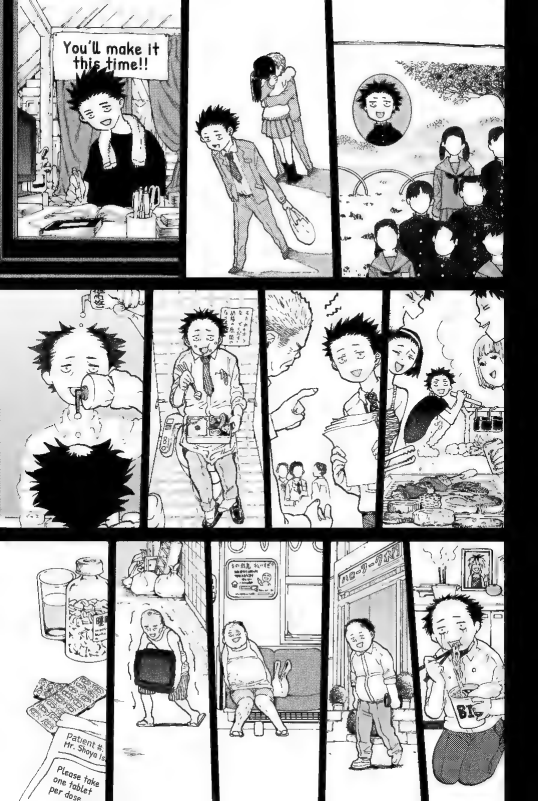
MAYBE SO I COULD CONVINCE MYSELF I WASN'T REALLY ALONE.

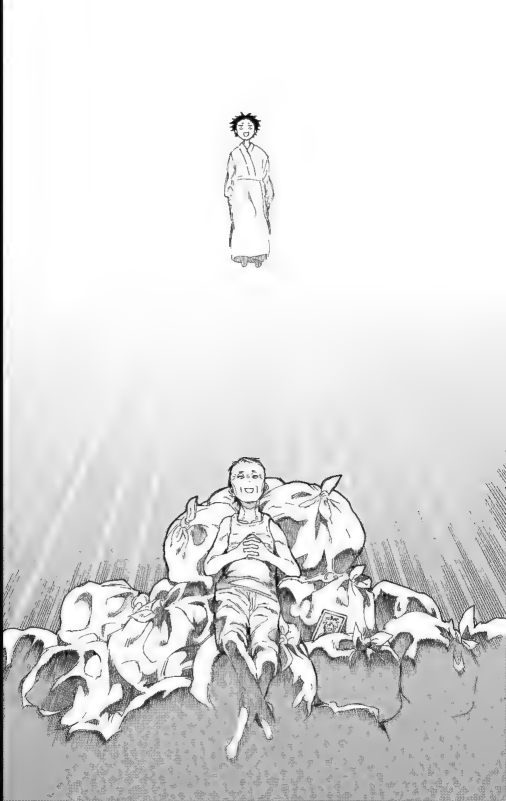

I BEGAN CHOOSING ISOLATION OF MY OWN ACCORD.

I FELT LIKE I WAS REALLY FAR FROM HOME AND GOT REALLY NERVOUS.
IN MY SECOND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, I WENT ALL THE WAY TO NAGOYA ALONE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

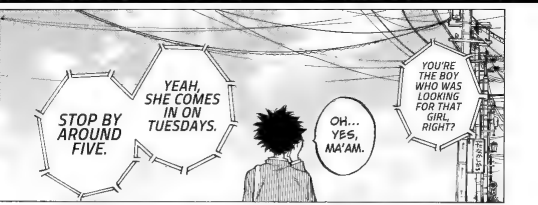
ALL RIGHT! I GOT THE LIMITED EDITION!
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE MONEY AND GUTS, IT'S SURPRISINGLY CLOSE.
WHAT I LEARNED WHEN I GOT THERE WAS...
MAYBE WHAT I THOUGHT WAS SO FAR AWAY WAS ACTUALLY WITHIN REACH AFTER ALL.
**FUN SIGN LANGUAGE*
NOT YET. BUT I WANT IT BAD.
YOU BUY THE LIMITED EDITION YET?
I-I...
BOUGHT THE LIMITED EDITION.

UGH... THEN I'M GONNA QUIT LISTENIN' TO THEM.
YOU DID, HUH?
ME TOO.
THE MOMENT I REALIZED THAT, MY FUTURE CAME INTO SIGHT.
APPARENTLY, THERE ARE SOME THINGS IN THIS WORLD YOU JUST CAN'T ATTAIN.
I QUIT LISTENING TO THEM TOO.
MC.RED


You'll make it this time!!
Patient #1 Mr. Shoya Ishida
Please take one tablet per day.



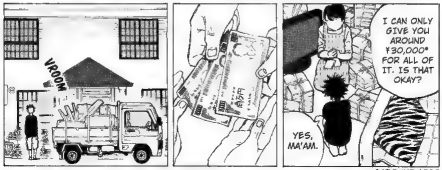
I'M GONNA DIE ANYWAY.
MAY AS WELL GO AHEAD AND TAKE CARE OF MY UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

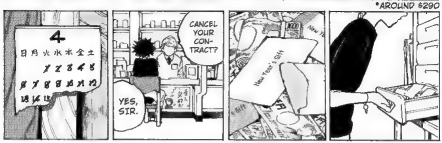

YOU'RE THE BOY WHO WAS LOOKING FOR THAT GIRL, RIGHT?
OH... YES, MA'AM.
YEAH, SHE COMES IN ON TUESDAYS.
STOP BY AROUND FIVE.

4
日 月 火 水 木 金 土
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15
NOV
1

SHRRP

4
WHAT? YOU'RE QUITTING?
YES, MA'AM.


VROOM
I CAN ONLY GIVE YOU AROUND ¥30,000* FOR ALL OF IT. IS THAT OKAY?
YES, MA'AM.
*AROUND $290


4
CANCEL YOUR CONTRACT?
YES, SIR.

Here's the money I owe you.

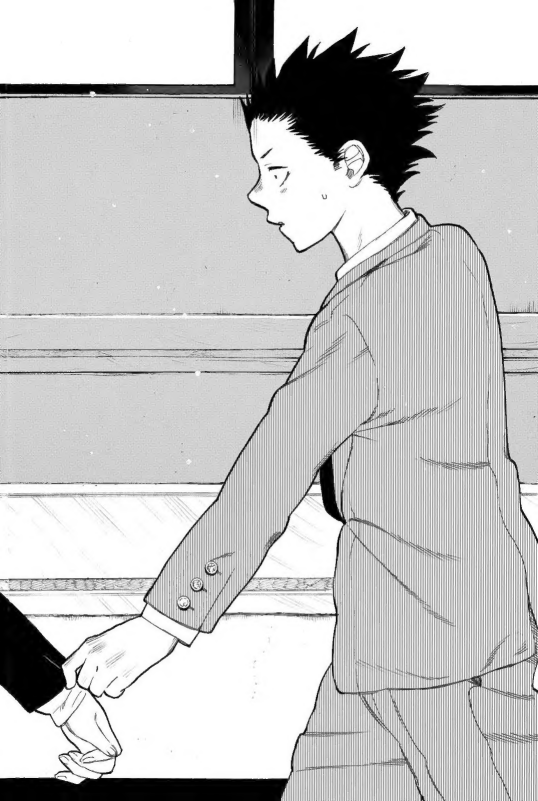
THUNK
Here's the money I owe you.

I THOUGHT I'D BE ABOUT SIXTY...
...SO I'VE GOTTA FACE HER AGAIN ALREADY?

SORRY I WASN'T A BETTER SON...

手話通訳会
*SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION GROUP
OH.

HUH?
DAMN IT. WHY AM I CRYING?
I CAN'T FACE HER LOOKING LIKE THIS!!
WHAP
NISHI-MIYA!



[CONTINUED IN VOL. 2]